

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9219

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 22 SYRIAN PRESS REPORTS KARAME SUPPORT
FOR ARAB SUMMIT

1. SYRIAN PRESS REPORT ANNOUNCEMENT BY KARAME PREVIOUS
DAY THAT HE SUPPORTS HOLDING OF ARAB SUMMIT ON LEBANESE
CRISIS AT WHICH PRES-ELECT SARKIS WOULD SPEAK FOR NATION
AND THEN SUPERVISE SUMMIT'S DECISIONS. KARAME ADDED THAT
HE WOULD OPPOSE INCLUSION OF LEBANESE CRISIS AS ITEM ON
UNGA AGENDA.

2. PRESS DEADLINED CONTINUED CLASHES: "RESIDENTIAL
SECTIONS OF BEIRUT LIVE AMIDST HELL OF ROCKET AND
ARTILLERY SHELLS. CASUALTIES ARE MOUNTING. VIOLENT
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FIGHTING IN MOUNTAINS AND VILLAGES SURROUNDING TRIPOLI."

INSTENSIFIED CONTACTS AMONG ALL FACTIONS REPORTEDLY CONTINUED IN ORDER TO REACH CEASE-FIRE. ARTICLE CLAIMED INITIAL ESTIMATES OF CASUALTY FIGURES HIGH, BUT NOTED NONE OF THE FACTIONS HAS ANNOUNCED MILITARY VICTORY IN ANY REGION. MEDIA REPORTED AL REP EXPECTED TO RETURN TO BEIRUT FROM CAIRO SOON TO RESUME HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

3. DAMASCUS MEDIA HAS NOT PUBLIZED ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN FSO'S TO JOUNIEH.

4. PRESS CLAIMED CAIRO WITNESSING DETERIORATION OF INTERNAL SITUATION AS RESULT OF LABOR DISTURBANCES. EGYPTIAN REGIME EXPECTED BY SYRIAN PRESS TO ADD NOW FACES TO ADMINISTRATION TEAM "AS PROPAGANDA DEVICE TO COVER ITS POLITICAL FAILURE ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS." SEPARATE ARTICLE DERIDED EGYPT FOR INVITING ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN 1977 CAIRO PUBLIC RELATIONS CONFERENCE.

5. MEDIA REPORTED ARRIVAL OF SAUDI ECONOMIC DELEGATION LED BY FINANCE MIN FOR TALKS AIMED AT AGREEMENT FOR SAUDI FINANCING OF NUMBER OF SYRIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

6. DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY PORTRAYED LEBANESE SITUATION AS EXTREMELY CRITICAL IN VIEW OF HARD LINE TAKEN BY WARRING FACTIONS WHICH REACH CEASE-FIRE ONE DAY AND VIOLATE IT THE NEXT. TISHRIIN COLUMNIST LASHED OUT AT "JUMBLATT AND HIS ALLIES" FOR UNDERMINING EVERY ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE SETTLEMENT. JUMBLATT CHARGED WITH SACRIFICING PALESTINIANS TO HIS OBJECTIVES, OF TURNING PALESTINIANS AGAINST LEBANESE AND VICE-VERSA, AND OF WORKING TOWARD OFFICIAL PARTITION OF LEBANON. WRITER CONCLUDED THAT, "APPEAL FOR CONVOKING MEETING OF ALL NATIONALIST ELEMENTS AND ELEMENTS WHICH OPPOSE PARTITION MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23 ESPECIALLY SINCE US HAS STARTED ITS MARCH TOWARD PREPARING (PARTIES) FOR PRESENCE OF MORE THAN ONE STATE IN LEBANON." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST ASSERTED EGYPTIAN INVITATION FOR ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAIRO CONFERENCE CONSTITUTED ONE EXAMPLE OF BRIDGE-BUILDING BETWEEN CAIRO AND TEL AVIV THAT NEEDED COVER OF SEDITION IN LEBANON TO SUCCEED.

7. COMMENT: PUBLICITY GIVEN TO KARAME'S SUPPORT FOR ARAB SUMMIT WITH SARKIS AS LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTS IMPLICIT SARG SUPPORT FOR SUMMIT PROPOSAL, BUT MEDIA HAVE NOT YET REPORTED OFFICIAL SYRIAN

RESPONSE. ARRIVAL OF SAUDI ECONOMIC DELEGATION
ENSURES THAT SUMMIT PROPOSAL WILL RECEIVE TOP-LEVEL ATTENTION
OF FINANCIALLY HARD-PRESSED SARG. MEETING OF LEFTIST
AND OTHER LEBANESE FACTIONS ESPOUSED BY COLUMNIST MAY
REFLECT FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO DIMINISH POTENCY OF
JUMBLATT'S ALLIANCE BY GENERATING DEFECTIONS AMONG HIS
ALLIES.
MURPHY

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